

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A hydroentangling support fabric comprising flattened filaments.
- 5 2. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fabric includes machine direction (MD) filaments and cross-machine direction (CD) filaments and said flattened filaments include only a portion of
10 said MD filaments.
3. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flattened filaments include all of said MD filaments.
- 15 4. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flattened filaments include only a portion of said CD filaments.
- 20 5. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flattened filaments include all of said CD filaments.
- 25 6. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fabric includes MD filaments and CD filaments and said flattened filaments include a combination of said MD filaments and said CD filaments.
- 30 7. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth in claim 1, wherein said fabric is a double layer fabric and said flattened filaments are incorporated into only one layer.

8. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth
in claim 7, wherein said one layer is the wear
side layer.
- 5 9. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth
in claim 7, wherein said one layer is the
forming side layer.
- 10 10. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth
in claim 1, wherein said fabric is a triple
layer fabric and said flattened filaments are
incorporated into only one layer.
11. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth
in claim 10, wherein said one layer is the wear
side layer.
- 15 12. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth
in claim 10, wherein said one layer is the
forming side layer.
13. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth
in claim 1, wherein the permeability of said
fabric is greater than 350 cfm.
- 20 14. A hydroentangling support fabric as set forth
in claim 1, wherein said fabric is a spiral
link type fabric.
- 25 15. A method of producing a support fabric for a
hydroentangling process, comprising the step of
incorporating flattened filaments within said
support fabric during production of said
support fabric.
- 30 16. A method of producing a support fabric for a
hydroentangling process as set forth in claim
15, wherein said flattened filaments are formed
through extrusion prior to weaving of said
support fabric.

17. A method of producing a support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 15, wherein said flattened filaments are formed by calendering non-flattened filaments prior to weaving of said support fabric.
18. A method of producing a support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 15, wherein said flattened filaments are formed by calendering a source fabric.
19. A method of producing a support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 18, wherein said calendering is applied to only one side of said source fabric.
20. A method of producing a support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 18, wherein said calendering is applied to both sides of said source fabric.
21. A method of producing a support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 15, wherein said flattened filaments are formed by sanding a source fabric.
22. A method of producing a support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 15, wherein said fabric is a spiral link type fabric.
23. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process, produced by incorporating flattened filaments within said support fabric during production of said support fabric.
24. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 23, wherein said flattened filaments are formed through

extrusion prior to weaving of said support fabric.

25. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 23, wherein said
5 flattened filaments are formed by calendering non-flattened filaments prior to weaving of said support fabric.
26. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 23, wherein said
10 flattened filaments are formed by calendering a source fabric.
27. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 26, wherein said
15 calendering is applied to only one side of said source fabric.
28. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 26, wherein said
calendering is applied to only both sides of said source fabric.
- 20 29. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 23, wherein said flattened filaments are formed by sanding a source fabric.
- 25 30. A support fabric for a hydroentangling process as set forth in claim 23, wherein said fabric is a spiral link type fabric.